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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/942,837	08/29/2001	Shawn R. Gettemy	PALM-3651	8549

7590 02/10/2004
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EXAMINER

BELL, PAUL A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2675

DATE MAILED: 02/10/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/942,837

Applicant(s)

GETTEMY ET AL.

Examiner

PAUL A BELL

Art Unit

2675

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 November 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 and 13-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 and 13-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____. 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Art Unit: 2675

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in-

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

2. Claims 1-11 and 13-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Suzuki (6,529,188).

With regard to claim 1, Suzuki teaches a display assembly for an electronic device comprising: a display device (figure 10, item 1 “LCD”), a digitizer (figure 10, item 4 “touch panel”) comprising a layer of conductive paste (figure 5, items 4A and 11 “ITO”, column 10, lines 47-52 and a reference is now merely cited as evidence to an “inherent physical property of the material ITO used” such as “conductive paste” SEE: Gettemy et al. Patent Publication US 2002/0180620 A1 (dated Dec 5, 2002) which is # 09/871,322 (filed May 30, 2001) section [0005] where it states “The conductive films 922, 924 are formed of Indium Tin Oxide material, which has a paste constituency.”), disposed above a digitizing element (figure 5, items 4B and 22); and a single-piece top cover enclosing said display device and said digitizer and operable to

Art Unit: 2675

allow mechanical transfer of external pressure to cause said layer of conductive paste to contact and activate said digitizing element *responsive to said external pressure, wherein a point of contact on said single-piece top cover is detected* (figures 1a and 1b item 4A and column 10, lines 48-52) .

With regard to claim 2 Suzuki teaches the display assembly of Claim 1, wherein said single-piece top cover comprises a flexible thermoplastic outer film having a three-dimensional top surface (figure 1a, item 4A, column 10, lines 46-52).

With regard to claim 3 Suzuki teaches the display assembly of Claim 2, wherein said single-piece top cover further comprises a supporting structure that is coupled to said transparent flexible thermoplastic outer film (figure 1A, item 4B).

With regard to claim 4 Suzuki teaches the display assembly of Claim 1, wherein said single-piece top cover is free of any steps, openings, or indentations (figure 1a).

With regard to claim 5 Suzuki teaches the display assembly of Claim 1, wherein said digitizer further comprises a plurality of electrodes and traces operable to register a point of contact when said conductive paste makes contact with said digitizing element (figure 1A, items 11 and 12).

With regard to claim 6 Suzuki the display assembly of Claim 1, wherein said single-piece top cover further comprises a decorative border constructed therein using an in mold decoration process (figure 11a shows a display region item 15 and input region of touch panel item 20 these

Art Unit: 2675

edges under item 4 will visually create a border that is considered to read on the subjective feature “decorative”)

With regard to claim 7 Suzuki teaches the display assembly of Claim 1, wherein a decorative border is disposed directly beneath said single-piece top cover and above said digitizer (figure 11a).

With regard to claim 8 Suzuki teaches the display assembly of Claim 7, wherein said digitizer comprises electrical traces and circuits along a periphery that are hidden by said decorative border (figure 11a and figure 5).

With regard to claim 9 Suzuki teaches the display assembly of Claim 1, wherein said single-piece top cover has indentations to indicate button functions (column 15, lines 17-21 and figure 12).

With regard to claim 10, Suzuki teaches a display for an electronic device comprising: a display mechanism (figures 8-10), a single-piece cover that is bezel-less and is disposed over a top surface of said display mechanism and operable to allow mechanical transfer of pressure (figures 1a and 1b item 4A and column 10, lines 48-52), and a resistive digitizer mechanism disposed beneath said cover *comprising a layer of flexible conductive paste* (figure 5, items 4A and 11 “ITO”, column 10, lines 47-52 and a reference is now merely cited as evidence to an “inherent physical property of the material ITO used” such as “conductive paste” SEE: Gettemy et al. Patent Publication US 2002/0180620 A1 (dated Dec 5, 2002) which is # 09/871,322 (filed May 30, 2001) section [0005] where it states “The conductive films 922, 924 are formed of

Art Unit: 2675

Indium Tin Oxide material, which has a paste constituency,”), *disposed above a digitizing element* (figure 5, items 4B and 22) and responsive to said mechanical transfer of said cover, operable for registering *contact between said layer of flexible conductive paste and said digitizing element corresponding to* a contact point on said cover (figures 1a and 1b).

With regard to claim 11, Suzuki teaches the display assembly of Claim 10, further comprising a supporting structure and wherein said single-piece cover is a transparent flexible thermoplastic outer film having a three-dimensional top surface coupled to said supporting structure (figure 1a, item 4A, column 10, lines 46-52).

With regard to claim 13, Suzuki teaches the display assembly of Claim 12, wherein said single-piece cover has sufficient deflection under external pressure to cause said layer of flexible conductive paste to contact and activate said resistive digitizer mechanism (figure 1A, items 11 and 12).

With regard to claim 14, Suzuki teaches the display assembly of Claim 10, wherein said single-piece cover is free of any steps, openings, or indentations (figure 1a).

With regard to claim 15, Suzuki teaches the display assembly of Claim 10, wherein said single-piece cover further comprises a decorative border constructed therein using an in mold decoration process (figure 11a shows a display region item 15 and input region of touch panel item 20 these edges under item 4 will visually create a border that is considered to read on the subjective feature “decorative”).

Art Unit: 2675

With regard to claim 16, Suzuki teaches the display assembly of Claim 10, wherein a decorative border is disposed directly beneath said single-piece cover and above said resistive digitizer mechanism (figure 11A).

With regard to claim 17, Suzuki teaches the display assembly of Claim 16, wherein said resistive digitizer mechanism comprises electrical traces and circuits along a periphery that are hidden by said decorative border (figure 11a and figure 5).

With regard to claim 18, Suzuki teaches the display assembly of Claim 10, wherein said single-piece cover has indentations to indicate button functions (column 15, lines 17-21 and figure 12).

With regard to claim 19, Suzuki teaches a display assembly for an electronic device comprising: a display mechanism (figures 8-10); a back cover (figure 11c, item 19); a transparent single-piece cover having a bezel-less and three dimensional top surface disposed over a top surface of said display mechanism (figures 1a and 1b item 4A and column 10, lines 48-52); and a resistive digitizer mechanism disposed beneath said transparent single-piece cover *comprising a layer of flexible conductive paste* (figure 5, items 4A and 11 “ITO”, column 10, lines 47-52 and a reference is now merely cited as evidence to an “inherent physical property of the material ITO used” such as “conductive paste” SEE: Gettemy et al. Patent Publication US 2002/0180620 A1 (dated Dec 5, 2002) which is # 09/871,322 (filed May 30, 2001) section [0005] where it states “The conductive films 922, 924 are formed of Indium Tin Oxide material, which has a paste constituency.”), *disposed above a digitizer element* (figure 5, items 4B and 22) and operable for

Art Unit: 2675

registering a contact point on said transparent single-piece cover *corresponding to a point of contact between said layer of flexible conductive paste and said digitizing element* (figures 1a and 1b).

With regard to claim 20 teaches the display assembly of Claim 19, wherein said transparent single-piece cover further comprises a transparent flexible thermoplastic outer film free of any steps, openings, or indentations and coupled to a supporting structure (figure 1a).

With regard to claim 21 Suzuki teaches the display assembly of Claim 19, wherein said transparent single-piece cover has sufficient deflection under external pressure to activate said resistive digitizer mechanism (figure 1a items 560 and 4a this is an inherent feature needed for device to work).

With regard to claim 22 Suzuki teaches the display assembly of Claim 19, wherein said transparent single-piece cover further comprises a decorative border constructed using an in mold decoration process (figure 11a shows a display region item 15 and input region of touch panel item 20 these edges under item 4 will visually create a border that is considered to read on the subjective feature “decorative”).

With regard to claim 23 Suzuki teaches the display assembly of Claim 19, wherein a decorative border is disposed directly beneath said transparent single-piece cover and above said resistive digitizer mechanism (figure 11A).

Art Unit: 2675

With regard to claim 24 Suzuki teaches the display assembly of Claim 23, wherein said resistive digitizer mechanism comprises electrical traces and circuits along a periphery that are hidden by said decorative border (figure 11a and figure 5).

With regards to claim 25 Suzuki teaches the display assembly of Claim 19, wherein said transparent single-piece cover has indentations to indicate button functions (column 15, lines 17-21 and figure 12).

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 10, and 19 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however,

Art Unit: 2675

will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul Bell whose telephone number is (703) 306-3019.

Any response to this action should be mailed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231
or faxed to: (703) 872-9306

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist). Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.



Paul Bell
Art unit 2675
30 January 2004


CHANH NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER